

SECTION 1.0

MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT SOUTH COAST STUDY REGION DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1.1 BACKGROUND

California has a long tradition of addressing the conservation of California's diverse coastal and marine wildlife and habitats. Since World War II pressures on these resources have grown as fishing effort and success have increased and as coastal development has transformed coastal habitats and generated pollutants. Short and long-term shifts in oceanographic conditions have also affected the marine and coastal environment. In the last thirty-five years, both federal and state government programs have made an effort to address the environmental problems associated with these changes. Part of this effort has been to create protected areas in the marine environment.

California's first six marine protection areas (MPAs) were created between 1909 and 1913; by 1950 all had been removed. After 1950 more than 50 other MPAs were created along the California coast. However, these original MPAs were established piecemeal and without consideration for regional management goals. The majority are considered to be too small and lacking in effective protection. With these existing MPAs less than 1 percent of coastal waters were protected, and none extended to deeper waters.

In 1999 the legislature approved, and the Governor signed, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA; Stats.1999, Chapter 1015). In determining the need for the act, the legislature held that "California's marine protected areas (MPAs) were established on a piecemeal basis rather than according to a coherent plan and sound scientific guidelines. Many of these MPAs lack clearly defined purposes, effective management measures and enforcement. As a result, the array of MPAs creates the illusion of protection while falling far short of its potential to protect and conserve living marine life and habitat."

The legislature stated that "California's extraordinary marine biological diversity is a vital asset to the state and nation. The diversity of species and ecosystems found in the state's ocean waters is important to public health and well-being, ecological health, and ocean-dependent industry." The legislature also held that coastal development, water pollution, and other human activities threaten the health of marine habitat and the biological diversity found in California's ocean waters. New technologies and demands have encouraged the expansion of fishing and other activities to formerly inaccessible marine areas that once recharged nearby fisheries. As a result, ecosystems throughout the state's ocean waters are being altered, often

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at a rapid rate. Fish and other sea life are sustainable resources and fishing is an important community asset.

MPAs and sound fishery management are complementary components of a comprehensive effort to sustain marine habitats and fisheries. Understanding of the impacts of human activities and the processes required to sustain the abundance and diversity of marine life is limited. The designation of certain areas as sea life reserves can help expand our knowledge by providing baseline information and improving our understanding of ecosystems where minimal human disturbance occurs. Marine life reserves are an essential element of an MPA system because they protect habitat and ecosystems, conserve biological diversity, provide a sanctuary for fish and other sea life, enhance recreational and educational opportunities, provide a reference point against which scientists can measure changes elsewhere in the marine environment, and may help rebuild depleted fisheries.”

Despite the expected value of marine life reserves, only 14 of the 220,000 square miles of combined state and federal ocean water off California, or six one-thousandths of one percent (0.006 percent), were set aside as genuine no take areas prior to the MLPA. For all of the above reasons, it is necessary to modify the existing collection of MPAs to ensure that they are designed and managed according to clear, conservation-based goals and guidelines that take full advantage of the multiple benefits that can be derived from the establishment of marine life reserves.

In August 2004, the California Natural Resources Agency, the Department of Fish and Game (Department), and the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation launched an effort to implement the MLPA. The present MLPA efforts have incorporated regional stakeholder concerns and the best available scientific information regarding the role of MPAs in conserving biological diversity, protecting habitats, aiding in the recovery of depleted fisheries, and promoting recreation, study, and education.

Rather than design a single network for the entire state at one time, the MLPA planning process has been broken down into five study regions: the north coast region, the north central coast region, the San Francisco Bay region, the central coast region, and the south coast region.

The MLPA of 1999 directs the state to redesign California’s system of MPAs to function as a network in order to: increase coherence and effectiveness in protecting the state’s marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage, as well as to improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems subject to minimal human disturbance.

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There are six goals that guide the development of MPAs in the MLPA planning process:

1. Protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems.
2. Help sustain, conserve and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
3. Improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.
4. Protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in CA waters for their intrinsic values.
5. Ensure California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective mgmt. measures and adequate enforcement and are based on sound scientific guidelines.
6. Ensure the State's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

1.2 LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IPA AND ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION

The MLPA South Coast Study Region (SCSR) consists of state marine waters occurring along the mainland and offshore islands and rock from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the United States border with Mexico in San Diego County. The shoreward boundary of the study region is drawn at mean high tide in most locations and at the extent of tidal influence and estuarine vegetation in estuaries and lagoons. Lagoons that are mostly or entirely closed to tidal inundation and dominated by brackish-freshwater species are not included in the study region.

The MLPA SCSR spans a straight-line distance of approximately 557 miles of the California coastline (with about 1,046 miles of actual shoreline) encompassing 2,351 square miles of coastal waters. The study region extends from the shoreline (mean high tide) to a maximum depth of approximately 3,938 feet off the northeast corner of San Clemente Island.

Some of the unique features of the SCSR include: the intersection between two major biogeographic regions at Point Conception; a complex system of oceanographic currents; diverse habitats ranging from sandy beaches and rocky coasts to soft- and hard-bottom deep habitat (refer to Table 1 and 2 below); deep offshore areas; kelp forests dominated by giant kelp; nearly 40 estuaries and

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lagoons with tidal influence; high biodiversity, including 481 species of fish, 4 species of sea turtles, 195 species of birds, 7 species of pinnipeds, and more than 5000 species of invertebrates; the Channel Islands, which are made up of 8 major islands as well as smaller rocks and islets; several large urban centers, including Los Angeles and San Diego, located adjacent to the study region, whose populations utilize coastal resources for recreational activities and commercial industries; productive commercial and recreational fisheries; and nearly half the existing state MPAs in California, as well as several federally managed areas, including the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Channel Islands National Park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and Cabrillo National Monument.

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**TABLE 1
HABITAT TYPES IN STATE WATERS, IN THE REGION AND STATEWIDE**

Habitat	Amount in Study Region	Percent of Study Region Area	Amount in State Waters	Percent of State Waters Area	GIS Data Source/ Comments*
Total area (area, sq. mi)	2,350.88		6947		
Total shoreline (length, mi)	1,046.45		2826.5		N2, N6
Shoreline Habitats (Length, mi)¹					
Intertidal: rocky shores	280.72	26.83%	944	33.40%	N2, N6
Intertidal: sandy beaches	379.63	36.28%	1293.5	45.76%	N2, N6
Intertidal: coastal marsh	59.49	5.69%	320.3	11.33%	N2, N6
Intertidal: tidal flats	28.76	2.75%	280.3	9.92%	N2, N6
Hard and Soft Bottom Habitats and Canyon (Area, sq. mi)²					
Total hard- and soft-bottom and canyon habitat	1,667.54		6947		
Rocky habitat 0–30 meters	111.73	4.75%	209.1	3.01%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA
Rocky habitat 30–100 meters	47.79	2.03%	233.7	3.36%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA
Rocky habitat 100–200 meters	3.89	0.17%	139.3	2.01%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA
Rocky habitat >200 meters	2.16	0.09%	144.2	2.08%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA
Total rocky habitat (all depths)	165.57	7.04%	726.2	10.45%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA
Soft bottom habitat 0–30 meters	437.18	18.60%	2023.3	29.12%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA
Soft bottom habitat 30–100 m	672.06	28.59%	3033.7	43.67%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA
Soft bottom habitat 100–200 m	158.39	6.74%	385.4	5.55%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA
Soft bottom habitat >200 m	234.34	9.97%	593.7	8.55%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA

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**TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)
HABITAT TYPES IN STATE WATERS, IN THE REGION AND STATEWIDE**

Habitat	Amount in Study Region	Percent of Study Region Area	Amount in State Waters	Percent of State Waters Area	GIS Data Source/ Comments*
Total soft bottom (all depths)	1,501.97	63.89%	6036.1	86.89%	MB, FP, UG, OI, SA
Underwater pinnacles	NA		NA		Data not available
Estuarine and nearshore habitats (area, sq. mi)					
Kelp 2005	30.4	1.29%	42.2	0.60%	F5
Kelp 2004	31.1	1.32%	45.5	0.70%	F4
Kelp 2003	26.3	1.12%	49.3	0.70%	F3
Kelp 2002	13.1	0.56%	36.6	0.50%	F2
Kelp 1999	11.6	0.49%	23	0.30%	F9
Kelp 1989	17.8	0.76%	53.6	0.80%	F8
Average Kelp	21.7	0.92%	41.7	0.60%	
Estuary	42.95	1.83%	148.5	2.10%	NW; ND; N2; GT
Seagrass: surfgrass (length, mi, percent of shoreline)	72.43	6.92%	NA		MA
Seagrass: eelgrass ³	4.69	0.20%	41.7	0.60%	M8
Oceanographic Habitats					
Upwelling center ⁴	1 major center at Point Conception		5 major centers		CW
Retention area	Gyre within Southern California Bight acts as a retention zone		NA		Wing et al. 1998, Largier 2004
Freshwater plume	Coastal river mouths		NA		

*Sources: CW = NOAA Coastwatch Sea Surface Temperature; F2 = DFG 2002a aerial survey; F3 = DFG 2003 aerial survey; F4 = DFG 2004a aerial survey; F5 = DFG 2005 aerial survey; F8 = DFG 1989 aerial survey; F9 = DFG 1999 aerial survey; FP = Fugro Pelagos Inc.; GT = USGS Topos; M8 = Merkel & Associates 2008; MA = Mineral Management Service 1980-1982 aerial surveys; MB = Seafloor Mapping Lab at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB); N2 = NOAA-ESI 2002; N6 = NOAA-ESI 2006; ND = California Natural Diversity Database; NW = National Wetlands Inventory; OI = Ocean Imaging; SA = San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG); UG = USGS.

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**TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)
HABITAT TYPES IN STATE WATERS, IN THE REGION AND STATEWIDE**

- ¹ Shoreline percentages may add up to more than 100% since more than one type can be present in a given location. Not all shoreline types, such as hardened shorelines, are listed here. Please see Table 2, "Amounts of Shoreline Habitats" for a list of all shoreline types and their distances in the study region.
- ² Substrate data represent a union of data collected by Rikk Kvitek from the Seafloor Mapping Lab at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Fugro Pelagos Incorporated, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Ocean Imaging, and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).
- ³ Eelgrass data is comprised of mapped eelgrass in bays and estuaries and does not include areas of eelgrass on the open coast, for which only simple presence/absence data are available.
- ⁴ Upwelling occurs when surface waters, driven offshore by prevailing westerly winds, are replaced by deep, cold nutrient-rich waters that flow up over the continental shelf to the surface (CCC 2003). Major upwelling centers in the state include: Cape Mendocino, Point Arena, Davenport, Point Sur, Point Conception.

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**TABLE 2
AMOUNTS OF SHORELINE HABITATS**

Shore Type	Length in Study Region (mi)	Percentage of Total Shoreline in Study Region
Exposed rocky cliffs	125.4	12.0%
Wave cut rocky platforms	150.6	14.4%
Exposed wave cut platforms in bedrock	4.1	0.4%
Sheltered rocky shores	0.6	0.1%
Fine to medium grained sand beaches	246.3	23.5%
Coarse-grained sand to granule beaches	59.5	5.7%
Mixed sand and gravel beaches	29.2	2.8%
Gravel beaches	105.8	10.1%
Salt marshes	59.5	5.7%
Exposed tidal flats	20.4	2.0%
Sheltered tidal flats	14.3	1.4%
Sheltered man-made structures	191.4	18.3%
Exposed seawall (man-made)	12.4	1.2%
Riprap (man-made)	135.4	12.9%
Total shoreline length in study region	1046.45	100%

Source: CDFG, 2009. Regional Profile of the MLPA South Coast Study Region (Point Conception to the California/Mexico border), prepared by the California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. June 24, 2009.

Notes: Shoreline percentages may add up to more than 100% since more than one type can be present in a given location.

The diverse habitats of the south coast study region host a wide diversity of species that may benefit from MPAs. Species that have been specifically considered during the MPA planning process, include: regionally important species that are likely to benefit from MPAs identified by the MLPA Science Advisory Team (SAT); depressed or overfished species, including species of abalone, the bocaccio rockfish, canary rockfish, cowcod widow rockfish, and steelhead trout; species targeted by commercial and recreational fisheries; and special status species protected under federal and/or state law, including a number of pinnipeds, cetaceans, seabirds, sea turtles, as well as steelhead trout, giant sea bass, garibaldi, and the tidewater goby.

1.3 PROPOSED PROJECT INTEGRATED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (IPA)

The planning process to implement the MLPA in the SCSR was conducted pursuant to the MLPA Master Plan for MPAs (see <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/masterplan.asp>). The MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG) began meeting in October 2008 to develop alternative MPA proposals for the south coast region. The

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SCRSG met during eight one- to two-day meetings and five work sessions between October 2008 and September 2009, before forwarding three proposals to the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) in October 2009. The BRTF was appointed by the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency to provide policy guidance and oversight to the process.

The SCRSG developed regional objectives to meet the goals of the MLPA, and guidelines developed as part of the Master Plan. They also identified design and implementation considerations based on the regional goals and objectives. These goals and objectives were used by the SCRSG and others to propose MPAs for the south coast. For each proposal, the SCRSG developed objectives for individual MPAs and linked them to the regional goals and objectives.

The Department contributed to the planning process by providing input to the SCRSG and BRTF throughout proposal development in the form of feasibility and design guidelines, and formal evaluations of MPA proposals based on those guidelines. The Department generated criteria to evaluate the feasibility of proposed MPA designs to ease public understanding, increase enforceability, and facilitate management. See <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/scproject.asp> for detailed information on the regional stakeholder group and documents.

The Scientific Advisory Team (SAT) for the South Coast Study Region was appointed by the Department Director to provide scientific advice and guidelines to the BRTF and SCRSG for development of MPA proposals based on the best readily available science and the master plan. The SAT provided scientific evaluation of MPA proposals relative to the science guidelines and goals of the MLPA.

At the present time the SCRSG through the BRTF has forwarded a preferred proposal to create a network of MPAs through regulatory changes, addition, deletion and modification to the existing set of MPAs in the SCSR. Three alternatives were considered and a preferred option was chosen and forwarded to the Commission for consideration. (See <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/southcoastipa.asp>). The preferred option under consideration by the Commission, also called the Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA), represents the final proposed set of MPAs intended to achieve the goals of the MLPA, and to Amend Section 632, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, and Re: Marine Protected Areas.

The proposed Project IPA represents the final expected configuration of MPAs in the south coast (see Map 2). This configuration includes a total of 35 MPAs for the South Coast Study Region, listed in Table 3. Sub-options have been included in the proposed regulation that may increase the number of MPAs to a total of 39. The proposed Project IPA consists of newly designated areas, modification of existing areas and incorporation of existing areas without modification (See Table 3). For

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example the MPAs in the northern Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Island were designed and adopted prior to the implementation of the south coast regional MLPA planning process. These 13 MPAs and two special closures, adopted in 2004, were re-evaluated at the onset of the south coast regional planning process relative to the goals of the MLPA by applying the SAT guidelines. These MPAs were found to meet the goals of the MLPA, and were incorporated into the south coast regional proposals without modification at the direction of the Commission. Additionally, two federal Safety Zones (military closures enacted by the United States Coast Guard and managed by the United States Navy) off of San Clemente Island that prohibit public access were recognized in the proposals as no-take areas, although these areas are not proposed for formal designation as MPAs. Thus, while the federal Safety Zones as well as the northern Channel Islands MPAs are part of the overall design of the MPA network, they are not under consideration for regulatory action.

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**TABLE 3
PROPOSED ADDITIONS OF NEW MPAs AND MODIFICATIONS
AND DELETIONS OF EXISTING MPAs AND SPECIAL CLOSURES AREAS
TO ACHIEVE THE PROPOSED PROJECT INTEGRATED
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

Existing MPA	Retain	Modify and Replace	Remove	New MPA
				Point Conception SMR
				Kashtayit SMCA
Refugio SMCA	Remove with option to retain		Remove with option to retain	
				Naples SMCA
				Campus Point SMR
Goleta Slough SMP		Replace with Goleta Slough SMCA.		
Big Sycamore Canyon SMR			Remove	
				Point Dume SMCA
				Point Dume SMR
				Point Vicente SMCA
Abalone Cove SMP		Replace with Abalone Cove SMCA.		
Point Fermin SMP			Remove	
Bolsa Chica SMP		Replace with Bolsa Bay SMCA and Bolsa Chica Basin SMCA		
Upper Newport Bay SMP		Replace with Upper Newport SMCA.		
Robert E Badham SMCA	Replace with option to retain	Replace with Crystal Cove SMCA with option to retain		
Crystal Cove SMCA		Replace with Crystal Cove SMCA.		

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Existing MPA	Retain	Modify and Replace	Remove	New MPA
Irvine Coast SMCA		Replace with Crystal Cove SMCA.		
Heisler Park SMR		Replace with Laguna Beach SMR or SMCA options.		
Laguna Beach SMCA		Replace with Laguna Beach SMR or SMCA options.		
South Laguna Beach SMCA		Replace with Laguna Beach SMR or SMCA options.		
Niguel SMCA		Replace with Dana Point SMCA .		
Dana Point SMCA		Replace with Dana Point SMCA.		
Doheny SMCA			Remove	
Doheny Beach SMCA	Remove with option to retain		Remove with option to retain	
Buena Vista Lagoon SMP			Remove	
Agua Hedionda Lagoon SMR			Remove	
Batiquitos Lagoon SMP		Replace with Batiquitos SMCA .		
Encinitas SMCA		Replace with Swami's SMCA .		
Cardiff-San Elijo SMCA		Replace with Swami's SMCA.		
San Elijo Lagoon SMP		Replace with San Elijo Lagoon SMCA .		
San Dieguito Lagoon SMP			Remove	
San Diego-Scripps SMCA		Replace with San Diego-Scripps Coastal SMCA .		
La Jolla SMCA		Replace with Matlahuayl SMCA .		
				South La Jolla SMR

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Existing MPA	Retain	Modify and Replace	Remove	New MPA
				South La Jolla SMCA
				Famosa Slough SMCA
Mia J Tegner SMCA		Replace with Cabrillo SMR.		
				Tijuana River Mouth SMCA
				Begg Rock SMR
Arrow Point to Lion Head Point Special Closure		Replace with Arrow Point to Lion Head Point (Catalina Island) SMCA.		
Catalina Marine Science Center SMR		Replace with Blue Cavern SMCA.		
				Bird Rock (Catalina Island) SMCA
				Long Point (Catalina Island) SMR
				Casino Point (Catalina Island) SMCA
				Cat Harbor (Catalina Island) SMCA
				Farnsworth Onshore (Catalina Island) SMCA
Farnsworth Bank SMCA		Replace with Farnsworth Offshore (Catalina Island) SMCA.		
Lover's Cove SMCA		Replace with Lover's Cove SMCA.		
Richardson Rock SMR	Retain without change			

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Existing MPA	Retain	Modify and Replace	Remove	New MPA
San Miguel Island Special Closure	Retain without change			
Judith Rock SMR	Retain without change			
Harris Point SMR	Retain without change			
South Point SMR	Retain without change			
Carrington Point SMR	Retain without change			
Skunk Point SMR	Retain without change			
Painted Cave SMCA	Retain without change			
Gull Island SMR	Retain without change			
Scorpion SMR	Retain without change			
Footprint SMR	Retain without change			
Anacapa Island SMCA	Retain without change			
Anacapa Island SMR	Retain without change			
Anacapa Island Special Closure	Retain without change			
Santa Barbara Island SMR	Retain without change			

SMCA = state marine conservation area SMP = state marine park SMR = state marine reserve. MPAs in bold are included in the Proposed Project IPA

1.4 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

This section describes the proposed changes, additions and removals of existing MPAs and special closures to achieve project alternatives under consideration. A comparison of the Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 are provided in Table 4 below, and are also illustrated in Maps 3 through 5.

1.4.1 Alternative 1

This is the SCRSG “Proposal 1R,” developed within SCRSG workgroups by constituents representing a variety of consumptive, non-consumptive, and environmental interests (see Map 3). It consists of 37 proposed MPAs, 13 existing MPAs and two existing special closures at the Channel Islands, and two federal Safety Zones (see Table 4 and 5), covering an area of 397.5 square miles, representing 16.9 percent of state waters within the south coast region. Of this, 77.5 percent of the area is within no take state marine reserves or “very high protection” SMCAs that do not allow fishing, covering 307.8 square miles or 13.1 percent of state waters within the south coast region. Additional information on Alternative 1 is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/southcoastipa.asp#prop1>.

1.4.2 Alternative 2

This is the “SCRSG Proposal 2R,” developed within SCRSG workgroups by constituents representing primarily commercial and recreational fishing interests along the south coast (see Map 4). It consists of 24 proposed MPAs, 13 existing MPAs and two existing special closures at the Channel Islands, and two federal Safety Zones covering an area of 378.3 square miles, representing 16.1 percent of state waters within the south coast region (see Table 4 and 5). Of this, 74.8 percent of the area is within no-take state marine reserves or “very high protection” SMCAs that do not allow fishing, covering 282.8 square miles or approximately 12 percent of state waters within the south coast region. Additional information on Alternative 2 is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/southcoastipa.asp#prop2>.

1.4.3 Alternative 3

This is the “SCRSG Proposal 3R,” developed within SCRSG workgroups by constituents primarily representing non-consumptive and environmental interests along the south coast (see Map 5). It consists of 27 proposed MPAs, 13 existing MPAs and two existing special closures at the Channel Islands, and three federal Safety Zones covering an area of 412.7 square miles, representing 17.6 percent of state waters within the south coast region (see Table 4 and 5). Of this, 71 percent of the area is within no-take state marine reserves or “very high protection” SMCAs and a State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA) that do not allow fishing, covering 293 square miles or 12.4 percent of state waters within the south coast region. A SMRMA is a classification of marine managed areas (defined in Public Resources Code Section 36700) that preserves resource values of the area while protecting specific recreational opportunities (see CCR, Title 14, Section 632(a)(1)(D)). In this case, this classification provides marine protected area-like protection of living marine resources subtidally, but allows waterfowl hunting to

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continue. Additional information on Alternative 3 is available at
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/southcoastipa.asp#prop3>.

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**TABLE 4
PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS AND DELETIONS
OF EXISTING MPAs AND SPECIAL CLOSURES AREAS
TO ACHIEVE THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES 1, 2, AND 3**

Existing MPAs/ No project proposal	Alternative 1 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 1)	Alternative 2 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 2)	Alternative 3 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 3)
Refugio SMCA	Remove.	Remove.	Remove.
Goleta Slough SMP	Modify regulations. Replace with Goleta Slough SMR.	Modify regulations. Replace with Goleta SMR.	Modify regulations. Replace with Goleta Slough SMR.
Big Sycamore Canyon SMR	Remove.	Remove.	Remove.
Abalone Cove SMP	Remove.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Abalone Cove SMCA.	Remove.
Point Fermin SMP	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Point Fermin SMCA.	Remove.	Remove
Bolsa Chica SMP	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Povuu'nga Komiik SMR.	Modify regulations. Replace with Bolsa Chica SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Bolsa Chica SMR.
Upper Newport Bay SMP	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Upper Newport Bay SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Upper Newport SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Upper Newport Bay SMR.
Robert E Badham SMCA	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Umuqpat SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna North SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Newport Coast SMCA.
Crystal Cove SMCA	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Umuqpat SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna North SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Newport Coast SMCA.
Irvine Coast SMCA	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Umuqpat SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna North SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Newport Coast SMCA.
Heisler Park SMR	Modify boundaries. Replace with Laguna SMR.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna SMR.	Modify boundaries. Replace with Laguna Beach SMR.
Laguna Beach SMCA	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna SMR.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna South SMCA.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna Beach SMR.

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**TABLE 4 (CONTINUED)
PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS AND DELETIONS
OF EXISTING MPAS AND SPECIAL CLOSURES AREAS
TO ACHIEVE THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES 1, 2, AND 3**

Existing MPAs/ No project proposal	Alternative 1 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 1)	Alternative 2 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 2)	Alternative 3 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 3)
South Laguna Beach SMCA	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Dana Point SMCA .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna South SMCA .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna Beach SMR .
Niguel SMCA	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Dana Point SMCA .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna South SMCA .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Dana Point SMCA .
Dana Point SMCA	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Dana Point SMCA .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Laguna South SMCA .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Dana Point SMCA .
Doheny SMCA	Remove.	Remove.	Remove.
Doheny Beach SMCA	Remove.	Remove.	Remove.
Buena Vista Lagoon SMP ₁	Remove.	Remove.	Remove.
Agua Hedionda Lagoon SMR	Remove.	Remove.	Remove.
Batiquitos Lagoon SMP	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Batiquitos SMR .	Remove.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Batiquitos Lagoon SMR .
Encinitas SMCA	Remove.	Remove.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Swami's SMCA .
Cardiff-San Elijo SMCA	Remove.	Remove.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Swami's SMCA .
San Elijo Lagoon SMP	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with San Elijo SMR .	Remove.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with San Elijo Lagoon SMR .
San Dieguito Lagoon SMP	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with San Dieguito Lagoon SMR .	Modify regulations. Replace with San Dieguito SMR .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with San Dieguito Lagoon SMR .

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**TABLE 4 (CONTINUED)
PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS AND DELETIONS
OF EXISTING MPAS AND SPECIAL CLOSURES AREAS
TO ACHIEVE THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES 1, 2, AND 3**

Existing MPAs/ No project proposal	Alternative 1 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 1)	Alternative 2 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 2)	Alternative 3 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 3)
San Diego-Scripps SMCA	Remove.	Remove.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with San Diego-Scripps Coastal SMCA .
La Jolla SMCA	Retain boundaries but modify regulations. Replace with La Jolla Cove SMR .	Modify regulations. Replace with La Jolla SMR .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Matlahuayl SMR .
Mia J Tegner SMCA	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Cabrillo SMR .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Cabrillo SMR.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Cabrillo SMR.
Arrow Point to Lion Head Point Special Closure	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Emerald Bay SMCA .	Remove.	Remove.
Catalina Marine Science Center SMR	Modify boundaries. Replace with Blue Cavern SMR .	Modify boundaries. Replace with Blue Cavern SMR .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Blue Cavern SMR .
Farnsworth Bank SMCA	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Farnsworth SMCA .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Farnsworth SMCA .	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Farnsworth SMR .
Lover's Cove SMCA	Modify regulations.	Modify boundaries and regulations. Replace with Lovers Cove SMCA.	Remove.
Richardson Rock SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
San Miguel Island Special Closure	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Judith Rock SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Harris Point SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
South Point SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.

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**TABLE 4 (CONTINUED)
PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS AND DELETIONS
OF EXISTING MPAS AND SPECIAL CLOSURES AREAS
TO ACHIEVE THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES 1, 2, AND 3**

Existing MPAs/ No project proposal	Alternative 1 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 1)	Alternative 2 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 2)	Alternative 3 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 3)
Carrington Point SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Skunk Point SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Painted Cave SMCA	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Gull Island SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Scorpion SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Footprint SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Anacapa Island SMCA	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Anacapa Island SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Anacapa Island Special Closure	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.
Santa Barbara Island SMR	Retain without change.	Retain without change.	Retain without change.

¹ Buena Vista Lagoon is an entirely freshwater system, and an MPA designation at this site is not applicable. Therefore, the proposed regulations will eliminate Buena Vista Lagoon SMP from Title 14 regulations.

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**TABLE 5
PROPOSED NEW MPAS TO ACHIEVE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES 1, 2, AND 3**

Alternative 1 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 1)	Alternative 2 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 2)	Alternative 3 (Revised SCRSG MPA Proposal 3)
Point Conception SMR	Point Conception SMR	Point Conception SMR
Kashtayit SMP	Campus Point SMR	Naples SMR
Mikiw SMCA	Point Dume SMCA	UCSB SMR
Helo SMR	Point Vicente SMR	Mishopsno SMCA
Devereux Lagoon SMR	Del Mar SMR	Mugu Lagoon SMRMA
Carpinteria Salt Marsh SMR	Famosa Slough SMR	Lachusa SMCA
Sumo SMCA	Sunset Cliffs SMR	Point Dume SMR
Lisiqui SMR	Ocean Beach Pier SMCA	Palos Verdes SMR
Palos Verdes SMR	Bird Rock SMCA	Swami's SMCA
Del Mar SMR	Casino Point SMR	South La Jolla Reefs SMR
Los Penasquitos Marsh SMR	Begg Rock SMR	Tijuana River Mouth SMCA
La Jolla South SMR		North Catalina SMR
La Jolla South SMCA		Long Point SMR
Famosa Slough SMR		
Ocean Beach SMR		
Ocean Beach Pier SMCA		
Tijuana River Mouth SMCA		
Cat Harbor SMCA		
Long Point SMR		
Casino Point SMCA		
Begg Rock SMR		

1.4.4 No Project Alternative (No Change to Existing MPAs)

The No Project Alternative would result in no change to existing MPAs in state waters of the South Coast Study Region (see Map 1). There are 42 existing state MPAs within the South Coast Study Region, as well as three special closures (see Table 4). These existing state MPAs include 15 state marine reserves (covering 6.7 percent of the study region), 8 state marine parks (covering 0.1 percent of the study region), and 19 state marine conservation areas (covering 0.9 percent of the study region). All together these MPAs and special closures cover 181.5 square miles, or 7.7 percent of the study region. One existing MPA in southern California, the Buena

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Vista SMP, was determined by the Department to lie outside of the study region and is not tidally influenced.

Twelve of the 42 existing MPAs within the south coast study region were created during the Channel Islands MPA planning process. Channel Island MPAs in state waters were implemented in 2003. Of the MPAs created during this process, 10 are SMRs and two are SMCAs. An additional MPA, Footprint SMR, was created in the Channel Islands in 2007. The largest of these MPAs is Richardson Rock SMR, located off the northwest end of San Miguel Island, which covers 40.8 square miles in state waters. The smallest of these MPAs is Skunk Point SMR, on the eastern end of Santa Rosa Island, which covers 1.4 square miles in state waters.

SECTION 2.0

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/AREAS TO BE STUDIED OR DISMISSED.

The Commission with assistance from the Department has conducted a preliminary review of known information on potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of implementing the proposed project IPA or alternatives. Some impacts have been deemed not likely to occur or are expected to be insignificant, and review of such impacts will be dismissed from consideration in the DEIR. Impacts that have been dismissed from consideration in the DEIR, and the basis for dismissal, are proved in section one (1) below. Impact analyses that will be contained in the DEIR are listed and described in section two (2).

1. Impacts Dismissed From Consideration.

- **Aesthetics.** California has declared that the Pacific Ocean and its rich marine living resources are of great environmental, economic, *aesthetic*, recreational, educational, scientific, nutritional, social, and historic importance to the people of California. (CA Fish and Game Code §2851, *emphasis added*). It is the policy of the State to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and, where feasible, restoration of California's marine living resources for the benefit of all the citizens of the state (id.). Coastal Southern California contains highly scenic areas, and a dense population that results in a large viewing audience at many coastal and marine locations within the SCSR. Approximately 2.5 million people participated in wildlife viewing, and more than 4 million people took photos at the beaches throughout the State in 1999 (CDFG 2009). Whale watching and wildlife viewing are also very popular in the SCSR due to the number of marine mammals that reside in and pass through the SCSR (CDFG 2009). The proposed project IPA and alternatives involve the promulgation of regulations defining areas within which certain fishing and other uses may be restricted so as to provide protection to living marine resources. No aesthetic resource impact producing activity such as construction, demolition, grading, or other related activity, is being proposed or is likely to occur as a result of the proposed project IPA or alternatives. In addition, the proposed project IPA and alternatives are not expected to result in the creation of new sources of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views. Visible changes that could be attributed to the proposed project IPA or alternatives include the reestablishment of natural biological communities within MPAs, including reestablishment of kelp beds. Environmental changes which occur beneath the sea surface would be visible to only a very small viewing audience. The

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reestablishment of natural kelp beds and marine biological communities is also expected to increase the availability of wildlife viewing opportunities and produce a positive impact to scenic vistas and the visual character of the SCSR. The proposed project IPA and alternatives may increase the amount of kelp present within the SCSR and some of this kelp may wash ashore. However this impact is not expected to be significant because the proposed project IPA and alternatives would not prohibit local jurisdictions from cleaning kelp wrack or other storm debris from beach areas above the mean high tide. Further, because kelp wrack and driftwood are common and naturally occurring components of a coastal visual setting, modest changes in the volume of these elements would not constitute a substantial change in the visual character of the affected beaches. No significant adverse aesthetic impacts are anticipated to result from the proposed project IPA or alternatives.

- **Agricultural Resources.** Typically, analysis of agricultural resources relate to cultivation of land or raising of livestock. The site of action of the proposed project IPA and alternatives is solely within state waters adjacent to the southern California coastline and islands. Conventional, terrestrial agriculture would not be affected by the proposed project IPA or alternatives. No conflicts with agricultural zoning or conversion from farmland to non-agricultural uses would occur, and no forest resources occur within the SCSR's marine environment. The proposed project IPA and alternatives would therefore not impact agricultural resources or forests, and impacts to agricultural resources will not be discussed in the DEIR. Impacts to aquaculture and kelp harvesting from the proposed project IPA and alternatives will be discussed in the consumptive uses section of the DEIR.
- **Geology and Soils.** The SCSR includes unique geologic features, such as rocky intertidal zones, beaches of varying grain sizes (gravel to fine-grained), rocky reefs, and underwater pinnacles. These features are the result of active tectonic processes, erosion, and wave and biological action in the surrounding area. These features provide a substrate for marine life and public viewing enjoyment. The proposed project IPA and alternatives are not directly or indirectly expected to impact these resources or processes, and it would not expose people or structures to adverse effects and geologic processes. The proposed IPA would have no effect on geology or soils, and impacts to these resources will not be not discussed in the DEIR
- **Noise.** The proposed project IPA and alternatives do not involve noise-producing activities and no direct noise impact is expected to result from

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implementation of the proposed project IPA. The proposed project IPA and alternative may result in vessels having to travel farther to reach open fishing grounds. This additional travel time may increase the noise duration from commercial and recreation fishing vessels. However, noise emissions from commercial and recreational fishing vessels have not been identified as a problem to coastal residents or beachgoers. This is likely due to the high level of attenuation of noise level on the ocean, and lack of sensitivity by beachgoers and coastal residents to the noise levels generated by boat operation. As such, the proposed project IPA and alternatives are not expected to directly or indirectly generate significant noise-related impacts and an analysis of noise impacts will be dismissed from discussion in the DEIR. The Department does not believe that the proposed project IPA and alternatives would result in the generation of excessive noise or would expose persons in the project vicinity to a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels or a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise.

- **Population and Housing.** The proposed project IPA and alternatives consist of changes in allowable fishing and other uses within defined water along the SCSR coast. Though these changes may result in economic impacts to commercial fishing interests and ocean-dependent fishing businesses, these impacts have been evaluated and minimized during the design of the proposed project IPA and alternatives. The proposed project IPA and alternatives are not likely to induce substantial population growth in the project area or cause a substantial change to the availability of housing in the project area and elsewhere. No substantial adverse impacts to population and housing are expected from the proposed project IPA and alternatives and analysis of such impacts will be dismissed from the DEIR.

2. Key Environmental Issues To Be Addressed In The EIR.

- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials.** Hazardous materials are used and hazardous wastes are produced, at facilities adjacent to the SCSR, and at offshore platforms and on vessels within the SCSR. In addition, hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are transported through the SCSR. The DEIR will analyze whether the proposed project IPA and alternatives will result in the direct or indirect creation of hazards to the public or the environment by impacting the existing generation and transportation of these materials. The DEIR will also consider if the proposed project IPA or alternatives would directly or indirectly increase the foreseeable risk of upset or accidental release of hazardous material to the environment from facilities or vessels operating within the SCSR. The DEIR will determine whether the proposed project IPA and alternatives will result in either direct or indirect emission of hazardous materials to the environment. The MPA location within the proposed project IPA and alternatives will be compared with a list of contaminated or polluted sites to determine if the proposed project IPA and alternatives will result in increased risk to the public or the environment. Finally, the DEIR will analyze whether the proposed project IPA and alternatives would interfere with emergency response plans that operate within the SCSR.
- **Land Use.** Land use and natural resource plans operating within the SCSR will be reviewed and conflict between these plans and the proposed project IPA and alternative will be identified in the DEIR.
- **Mineral Resources.** Offshore oil and gas facilities, and pipelines and power cables from these facilities are located within SCSR. The DEIR will investigate whether the proposed project IPA and alternatives will result in the loss of availability or value of offshore oil and gas resources or will otherwise impact the development or operation of these facilities.
- **Consumptive Uses.** The DEIR will review impact to aquaculture and kelp harvesting and other resource consumptive activities from the proposed project IPA and alternatives. Similar to the analysis done in a typical agricultural impact analysis loss of availability of these resources would be considered an adverse impact and any such impacts will be reviewed in the DEIR.

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- **Cultural Resources.** Archeological sites and cultural resources are located throughout the SCSR. The cultural resources analysis section will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the CEQA guidelines for determining impacts to archeological and historic resources (Title 14 CCR §15064.5). The DEIR will determine if the proposed project IPA or alternatives either directly or indirectly result in substantial adverse changes in the significance of archeological or historic resources. Analysis will also be done to determine if the proposed project IPA and alternatives are likely to directly or indirectly disturb any known human remains or destroy a unique paleontology or geological site or feature.
- **Air Quality.** The proposed project IPA and alternatives may result in displaced fishing vessels traveling to locations outside of designated MPAs. The increased trip length expected to occur as a result of the proposed project IPA and alternatives will be analyzed to determine if the proposed project IPA and alternatives are likely to: result in conflicts with existing air quality plans; violate any significance thresholds established by air districts adjacent to the SCSR; contribute to violations of air quality standards; contribute to the increase in non attainment criteria pollutants; expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or create objectionable odors that would affect a substantial number of people.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** In addition to the air quality analysis described above, an analysis of the greenhouse gas emissions and effect will be conducted. Greenhouse gas emissions and reductions are expected to come from changes in fishing activities and the reestablishment of natural biological communities including kelp beds. The DEIR will present information on the net amounts of greenhouse gases that are expected to be emitted as a result of the proposed project IPA and alternatives and will compare the projected emissions with State plans and policies regarding reducing greenhouse gas emission.
- **Water Quality and Oceanography.** Oceanographic processes and circulation patterns influence marine diversity, ecosystems, biologic productivity, the temperature of marine waters, and the distribution of contaminants deposited into these waters. Numerous anthropogenic discharges to marine waters occur and have occurred within the SCSR. The proposed project IPA and alternatives are not expected to significantly change the volume or nature of these discharges. In addition, water and sediment quality considerations were incorporated into the siting and design of MPAs. However, during the IPA development process, the potential for conflicts between existing facilities operations and permitting and the

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proposed MPAs was raised, and these types of conflicts will be analyzed in the DEIR. In addition, oceanographic condition will be reviewed in other parts of the DEIR where these conditions influence the presence or magnitude of impacts from the proposed project IPA and alternatives.

- **Biological Resources.** The proposed project IPA and alternatives are designed to help sustain, conserve and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted. The proposed project IPA and alternatives are also designed to protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic values. As such, impacts to marine resources have been reviewed and taken into account during siting and design of the proposed project IPA and alternatives. Nevertheless, analysis will be conducted on direct and indirect impacts to species listed under either the Federal or the California Endangered Species Acts from the proposed project IPA and alternatives. Analysis will be conducted to determine if the proposed project IPA and alternatives will affect wetlands or other sensitive habitats, or if they will affect the movement of or restrict the range of any native species, or otherwise affect the life history of native species. Lastly, analysis will be conducted to determine if the proposed project IPA and alternatives will result in expansion of invasive species.
- **Public Services and Utilities.** An analysis of the direct or indirect impacts to public services and utilities from the proposed project IPA and alternatives will be contained within this section of the DEIR. This analysis will include a review of whether the proposed project IPA and alternatives will result in the need for new governmental facilities or services. The proposed project IPA and alternatives propose to add new MPAs and place greater fishing and use restrictions on existing MPAs. Possible impacts to public services due to the increased need for enforcement of these restrictions will be reviewed in the DEIR. Issues related to impacts to Publicly Owned Treatment Works will be discussed in the water quality section of the DEIR.
- **Recreation.** Many recreational activities occur within the waters of the SCSR. These include fishing, sailing, whale watching, surfing, and diving. This section of the DEIR will analyze whether the proposed project IPA and alternatives would directly or indirectly cause an increase in use of existing recreational facilities that would lead to substantial deterioration of such recreational facilities. In addition, the DEIR will analyze whether the proposed project IPA and alternatives will likely require the construction of new facilities or expansion of existing recreational facilities, which could have an adverse physical impact on the environment.

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- **Environmental Justice.** Though not directly required by CEQA, a review of the impacts from the proposed project IPA and alternatives to economically-disadvantaged communities will be contained in this section of the DEIR. In addition, the proposed project IPA and alternatives will be reviewed to determine if they result in fair and equitable treatment of individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, or income.
- **Vessel Traffic.** The proposed project IPA and alternatives do not prohibit vessel traffic directly. However, prohibiting certain activities within MPAs may result in indirect impacts to the existing travel patterns and vessel traffic within portions of the SCSR. The proposed project IPA and alternatives will be analyzed to determine if they will likely induce changes in vessel traffic that would conflict with applicable plans and regulations or lead to increased congestion within the SCSR. Lastly any changes in exposure to navigational hazards, emergency access, and incompatible uses from the proposed project IPA and alternatives will be reviewed.

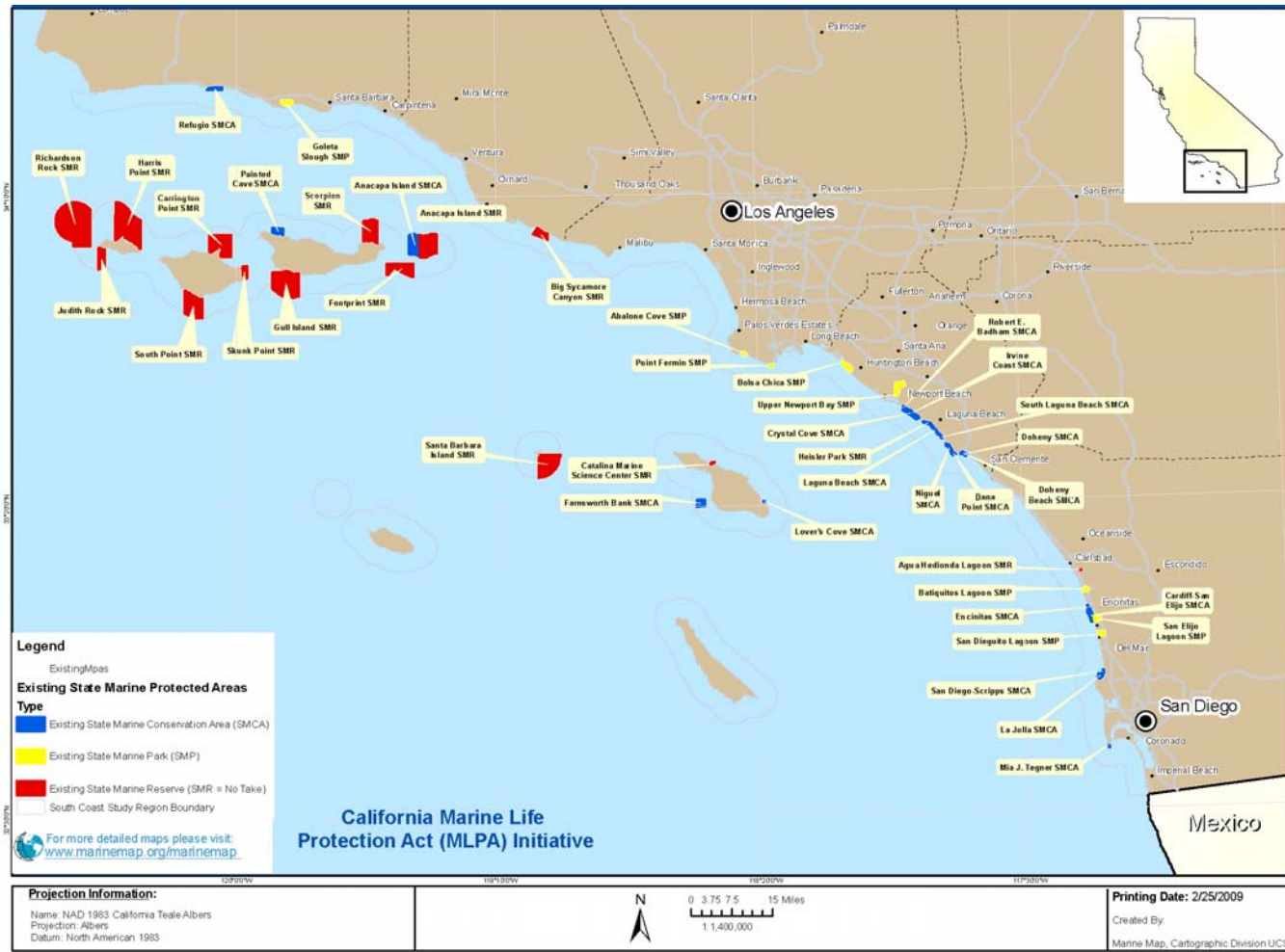
**SECTION 3.0
MAPS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IPA AND
ALTERNATIVES**

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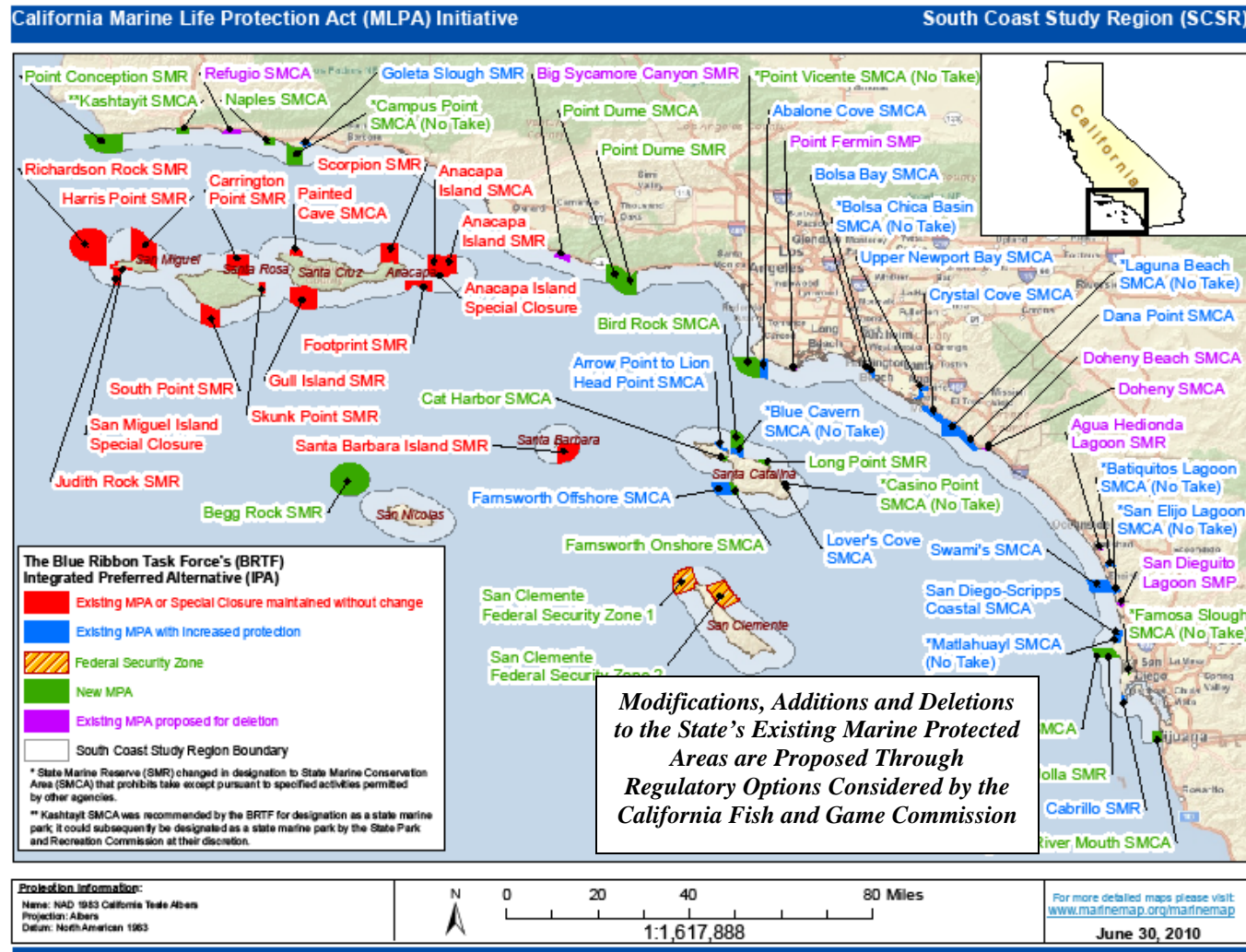
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MAP 1 NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE (EXISTING CONDITION)



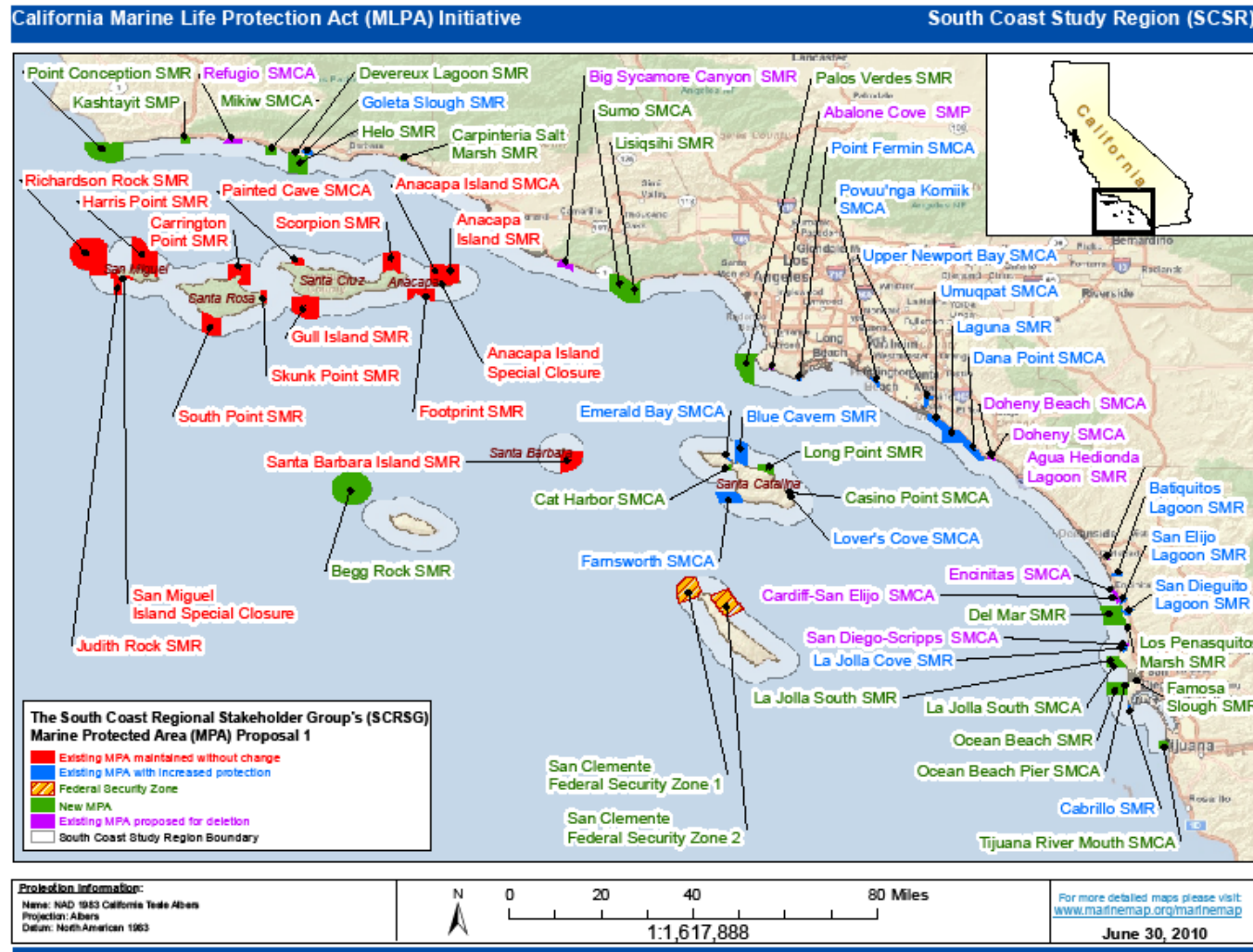
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MAP 2 PROPOSED PROJECT IPA



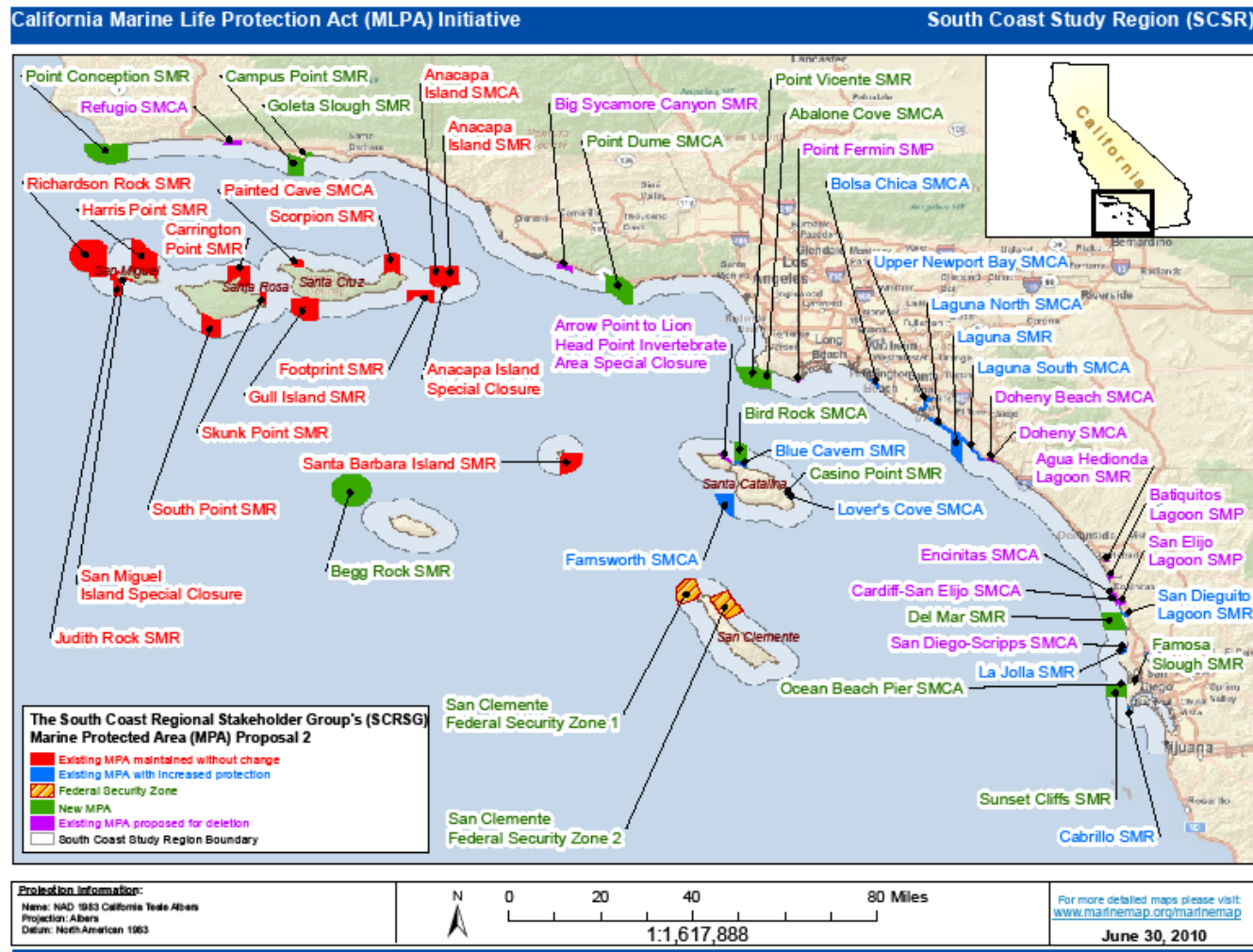
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MAP 3 ALTERNATIVE 1



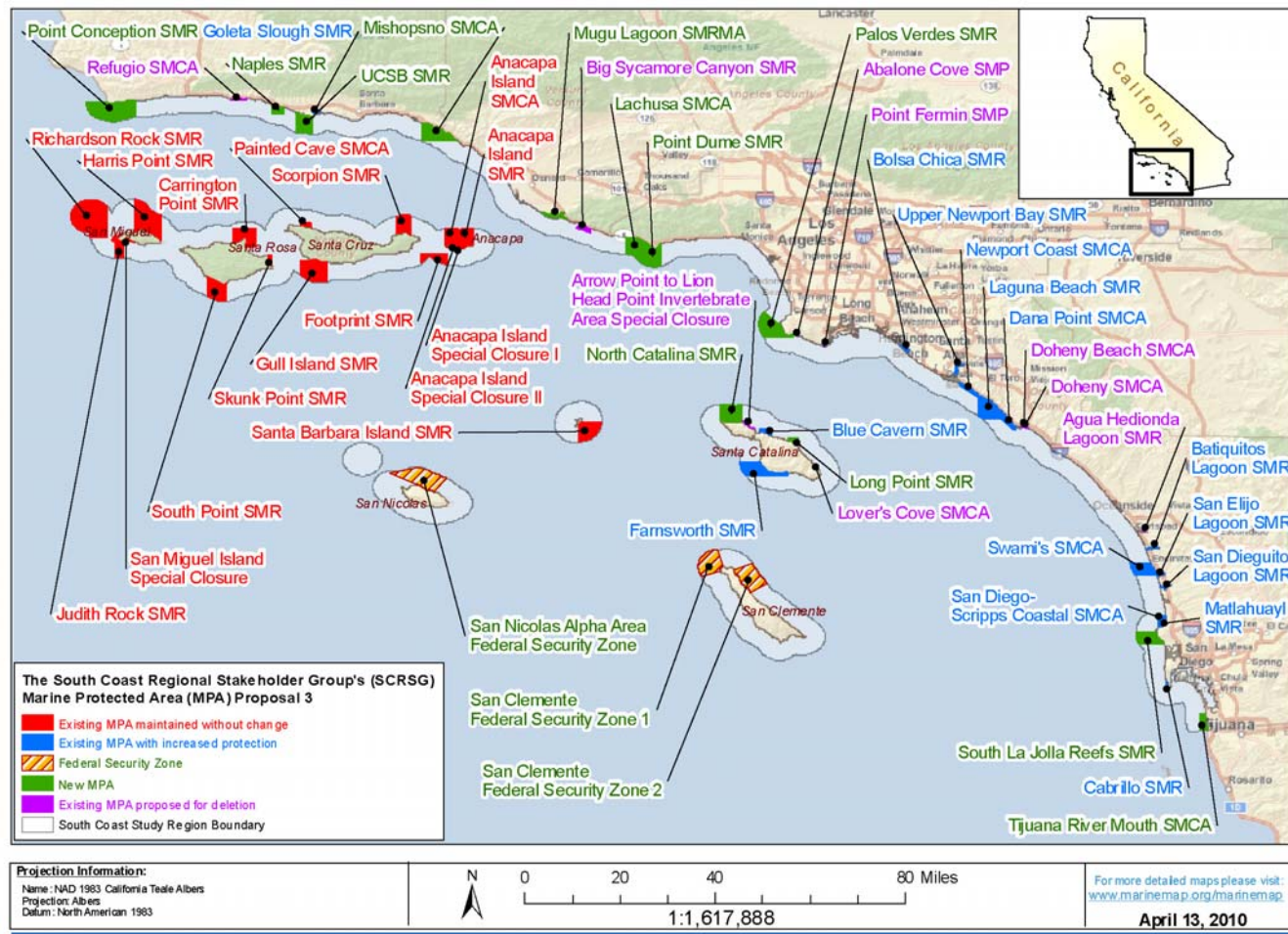
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MAP 4
ALTERNATIVE 2



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**MAP 5
ALTERNATIVE 3**



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